



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-3488, **Agenda Item #:** 41.

12/2/2021

### Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Front Steps, Inc to provide permanent supportive housing to disabled individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness, for a 10-month term with three 12-month extension options each in an amount not to exceed \$350,000, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.

### Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$350,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining terms is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### For More Information:

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### Additional Backup Information:

This agreement is a result of a competitive solicitation process. The request for application was released on September 23, 2021 and applications were due October 13, 2021. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting took place on September 29, 2021.

The request for applications process is used to solicit social services for the Austin Public Health Department and is not required to follow all state purchasing laws. However, the purchasing process has been reviewed by leadership from the Purchasing Department and the Austin Public Health Department, and incorporates most state laws, adheres to principles of fairness and transparency, and responsibly addresses the needs of the community.

The application evaluation process uses set criteria to uniformly review all applicants evaluated by a separate and independent review panel. A review panel comprised of individuals with education and expertise in the relevant issue-area rated each applicant. Evaluators agreed upon strengths and weaknesses for each applicant and each applicant received a resultant score based on this process. The criteria for evaluation included the following: Fiscal and Administrative Capacity, Experience and Cultural Competence/Racial Equity; Program Design and Performance Metrics; Data-Informed Program Management; and Cost Effectiveness.

The Austin Public Health Department will award one applicant the agreement for the initial base term of 10 months and three 12-month extension options, each in the amount of \$350,000.

To evaluate the effectiveness of permanent supportive housing supportive services, the performance of awarded agencies will be measured against the performance of other permanent supportive housing projects within the community. These measures will be reviewed annually and updated to align with new data at least

every three years.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.